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DE RUEHKKA #0527 1341243
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O 131243Z MAY 08
FM AMEMBASSY DHAKA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6756
INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0125
RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 8444
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 2172
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0478
RUEKDIA/Joint STAFF WASHDC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0117
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

UNCLAS DHAKA 000527

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR IO/PSC AND SCA/PB

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV MARR KPKO BG

SUBJECT: BANGLADESH STUDYING REQUEST FOR UNAMID AVIATION SUPPORT AND ENABLING ASSETS

REF: STATE 49277

¶1. (U) POL/ECON Counselor delivered reftel demarche to Bangladesh's Foreign Ministry May 12, and the DCM followed up at a senior level May 13. The Government of Bangladesh informed us they were studying the request and would respond in the coming days. The Ambassador will meet with the Foreign Adviser May 15 and intends to discuss this issue among other topics. The Defense Attaché has already been in contact with the Armed Forces Division (Bangladesh's JCS equivalent) on the GOB's ability to provide helicopters to UNAMID and has reported details through DOD channels.

¶2. (U) From previous conversations with senior Bangladesh Air Force Officers, we know that the GOB is eager to provide assistance to UNAMID but is constrained by limited aviation assets. Bangladesh previously offered the Bell Helicopters mentioned in reftel because these were the only aircraft available in the inventory. Bangladesh is currently providing aircraft to other PKOs and has a limited supply available. We will seek to determine whether the offer of USG assistance would help Bangladesh make other aircraft available for UNAMID.

Moriarty